

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-5 and 7. Please amend claims 6, 8, 11, 14 and 16. Please add new claims 21-25. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1-5. (Cancelled)

1 6. (Currently Amended) A latching apparatus which latches a data cable coupling in an
2 electronically coupled configuration to a data port of an electronic device, comprising:
3 a first member which is securely attached to said electronic device using at least one first
4 removable fastener, wherein said first member comprises an L-shaped member;
5 a second member which is securely attached to said data cable coupling using at least one
6 second removable fastener, wherein said second member comprises an L-shaped member; and
7 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said
8 electronically coupled configuration;
9 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
10 coupled configuration, said first and second removable fasteners are obscured so as to be non-
11 removable; and
12 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
13 coupled configuration, said first and second members are positioned in a nested configuration.

7. (Cancelled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) The latching apparatus of ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein:
2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;
3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof; and
4 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
5 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 9. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 6, wherein:
2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;
3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof and an engagement
4 mechanism at a second end thereof for engaging a second end of said first member when said first
5 and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled configuration; and
6 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
7 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 10. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 6, wherein said first and second members are
2 removable from said electronic device and data cable by removing said removable fasteners, and
3 wherein said electronic device and data cable may be restored to their original state upon removal
4 of said first and second members.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A latching apparatus for a data cable, comprising:

2 a first member which is securely attached to a coupling at an open end of said data cable
3 using at least one first removable fastener, wherein said first member comprises an L-shaped
4 member;

5 a second member which, in a locked configuration, obscures at least a portion of said
6 coupling to prevent electrical attachment of a device to said coupling, wherein said second
7 member comprises an L-shaped member; and

8 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said locked
9 configuration;

10 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said locked
11 configuration, said first removable fastener is obscured so as to be non-removable; and

12 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said locked
13 configuration, said first and second members are positioned in a nested configuration.

1 12. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;

3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof and an engagement
4 mechanism at a second end thereof for engaging a second end of said first member when said first
5 and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled configuration; and

6 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
7 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 13. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first member is removable
2 from said data cable by removing said at least one removable fastener, and wherein said data
3 cable may be restored to its original state upon removal of said first member.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

2 an electronic component having a data port;

3 a data cable having a first coupling for forming an electrical connection with said data port;

4 a first member which is securely attached to said electronic component using at least one
5 first removable threaded fastener, said at least one first removable threaded fastener traversing at
6 least one respective first through hole in said first member and screwing into said electronic
7 device in a first direction;

8 a second member which is securely attached to said data cable coupling using at least one
9 second removable threaded fastener, said at least one second removable threaded fastener
10 traversing at least one respective second through hole in said second member and screwing into
11 said data cable coupling in a second direction; and

12 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said
13 electronically coupled configuration;

14 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
15 coupled configuration, said first direction is substantially opposite said second direction, and said
16 first and second removable fasteners are obscured so as to be non-removable.

1 15. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein said electronic component is a
2 system unit, and said data cable communicates with at least one other component of said system.

1 16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A computer system of ~~claim 14~~, wherein comprising:
2 an electronic component having a data port;
3 a data cable having a first coupling for forming an electrical connection with said data port;
4 a first member which is securely attached to said electronic component using at least one
5 first removable fastener, wherein said first member comprises an L-shaped member;
6 a second member which is securely attached to said data cable coupling using at least one
7 second removable fastener, wherein said second member comprises an L-shaped member; and
8 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said
9 electronically coupled configuration;
10 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
11 coupled configuration, said first and second removable fasteners are obscured so as to be non-
12 removable; and
13 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
14 coupled configuration, said first and second members are positioned in a nested configuration.

1 17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein:
2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;
3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof; and
4 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
5 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 18. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein said data cable is securely attached
2 to another object, thereby deterring theft of said electronic component.

1 19. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein said first and second members are
2 removable from said electronic device and data cable by removing said removable fasteners, and
3 wherein said electronic component and data cable may be restored to their original state upon
4 removal of said first and second members.

1 20. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, further comprising:
2 a third member which is securely attached to a second coupling of said data cable at an end
3 of said cable opposite said first coupling using at least one third removable fastener;
4 a fourth member which, in a locked configuration, obscures at least a portion of said
5 second coupling to prevent electrical attachment of a device to said second coupling; and
6 a locking mechanism which locks said third and fourth members together in said locked
7 configuration;
8 wherein, when said third and fourth members are locked together in said locked
9 configuration, said third removable fastener is obscured so as to be non-removable.

1 21. (New) The computer system of claim 14, wherein:
2 said first and second members are flat, elongated members; and
3 when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled
4 configuration, said first and second members are positioned adjacent each other their elongated
5 length.

1 22. (New) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said electronic component is a system
2 unit, and said data cable communicates with at least one other component of said system.

1 23. (New) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said data cable is securely attached to
2 another object, thereby deterring theft of said electronic component.

1 24. (New) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said first and second members are
2 removable from said electronic device and data cable by removing said removable fasteners, and
3 wherein said electronic component and data cable may be restored to their original state upon
4 removal of said first and second members.

1 25. (New) The computer system of claim 16, further comprising:
2 a third member which is securely attached to a second coupling of said data cable at an end
3 of said cable opposite said first coupling using at least one third removable fastener;
4 a fourth member which, in a locked configuration, obscures at least a portion of said
5 second coupling to prevent electrical attachment of a device to said second coupling; and
6 a locking mechanism which locks said third and fourth members together in said locked
7 configuration;
8 wherein, when said third and fourth members are locked together in said locked
9 configuration, said third removable fastener is obscured so as to be non-removable.